

Tilting for windmills

I love windmills. Perhaps it goes back to my youth in Missouri. Most of the farms used windmills for pumping water. Although there were about 6 million windmills manufactured between 1850 and 1970, there are few in existence today.

The idea of utilizing nature's renewable and non-polluting energy source is still valid. Today they are called wind turbines. A coal-fired electrical power generation plant over a 25-year lifetime will produce 31,326 tons of carbon dioxide. A wind farm produces only 87 tons.

Can wind energy make a significant contribution to America's electrical production? A study by Pacific Northwest Laboratory estimates that wind power could account for 20 percent of our electricity.

Diversification of energy sources is vital if we wish to free ourselves from foreign oil dependence. Yet the present administration has embarked on a course that puts most of our eggs in the same basket. The present energy bill being debated by the House of Representatives would allocate \$18 billion in tax incentives to energy industries. The fossil fuel industries receive over \$10 billion and the alternative and renewable industries get the crumbs.

The Bush administration and the Republican-controlled Congress are clearly going in the wrong direction.

R.E. VAN VELKINBURGH
Syracuse

The Salt Lake Tribune OPINION

A14

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 17, 2003